

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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AMEMBASSY TOKYOMBIQE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CH, TH, PFOR

SUBJECT: PEKING NEWS CONFERENCE OF KHUKRIT PROMOT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THAI PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S JULY 2 NEWS
CONFERENCE IN PEKING OBTAINED FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES:

Q. WOULD YOU MIND TELLING US WHETHER YOU RECEIVED ANY
CHINESE ASSURANCES ON THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS. PLEASE
BE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT THE ASSURANCES WERE.

A: ASSURANCES THAT THE CHINESE DO SUPPORT THE INSURGENTS OR SUPPORT
US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INSURGENTS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.

Q: IN THE PAST THERE HAS BEEN PUBLICLY DECLARED SUPPORT FOR THE
THAI INSURGENTS.

A: FROM CHINA?

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Q: YES.

A: THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED THAT COMPLETELY. THEY SAID THEY HAVE NEVER GIVEN ANY SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS INSIDE OUR COUNTRY.

Q: IT HAS OFTEN BEEN ALLEGED THAT THERE IS A RADIO STATION IN CHINA WHICH IS USED AS SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS IN THAILAND. WAS THAT QUESTION DISCUSSED AT ALL?

A: YES, WE HAVE ASKED THEM THAT BEFORE, THAT IS BEFORE MY ARRIVAL IN PEKING. I THINK THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID BRING UP THAT QUESTION AND THEY DENIED THAT TOO.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONCRETE AGREEMENT DECIDED UPON ON TRADE TO TAKE PLACE SOON BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA?

A: YES. WE WILL HAVE THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE WILL HAVE PROTOCOLS SO THAT WE CAN BRING ABOUT TRADE AGREEMENTS AND OTHER KINDS OF AGREEMENTS.

Q: AIR AGREEMENTS?

A: THAT WE HAVEN'T BROUGHT UP. ONLY TRADE.

Q: DURING YOUR NEGOTIATIONS, DID YOU DISCUSS AMERICAN BASES OR AMERICAN FORCES IN THAILAND?

A: WE JUST INFORMED THEM THAT ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT POLICY THE AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW ALL THEIR TROOPS AND CLOSE DOWN THEIR BASES BY NEXT MARCH.

Q: THE CHINESE SEEM FAVORABLE TO THIS POLICY?

A: THEY WERE NEUTRAL ABOUT IT. IT WASN'T THEIR AFFAIR.

Q: WAS THE LAOS QUESTION TALKED ABOUT AND WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE CHINESE?

A: YES. WE TALKED ABOUT THAT AND THE CHINESE TOLD US THAT THEY WENT INTO LAOS. THEY SENT SOLDIERS INTO LAOS AS A KIND OF ASSISTANCE TO HELP THE LAO PEOPLE MAKE ROADS AND HIGHWAYS AND WHEN THOSE PROJECTS

ARE FINISHED THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR ENGINEERS OR MILITARY. THAT'S ALL.

Q: THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE YESTERDAY REFERS TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE BY ANY COUNTRY. I'M INTERESTED IN THE USE OF THE WORD COUNTRY. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE GOVERNMENT OF A COUNTRY AND THE ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTY OF THAT COUNTRY?

A: I DON'T THINK SO. COULD A POLITICAL PARTY STAND FOR A COUNTRY AS WELL? DOES THE REPUBLICAN PARTY STAND FOR THE UNITED STATES? OR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY? OR THE TORIES? OR THE LABOR? I THINK BY COUNTRY WE MEAN GOVERNMENT.

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Q: DON'T YOU THINK IN THE CASE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA THE COMMUNIST PARTY PLAYS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ROLE THAN THE REPUBLICAN OR TORY PARTIES IN THE UNITED STATES OR ENGLAND?

A: WELL, WE USE OUR OWN TERMS. WE AGREED TO WHATEVER WE UNDERSTOOD IT TO MEAN.

Q: YOU SAID THE CHINESE HAVE DENIED THEY AIDED INSURGENTS IN YOUR COUNTRY. DID YOU BELIEVE THIS DENIAL?

A: I'M HERE TO BRING ABOUT FRIENDSHIP. AND NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MAO?

A: HE WAS VERY GRACIOUS AND VERY KIND TO ME. WE HAD A LONG TALK OF ABOUT ONE HOUR ON VARIOUS HOURS AND I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE THE SAME PERSON AGAIN AFTER THAT EXPERIENCE. IT WAS SUCH AN OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCE TO MEET CHAIRMAN MAO.

Q: WAS THAT BECAUSE YOU EXPECTED IT TO BE, OR BECAUSE IT WAS?

A: IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHEN ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME YOU COME ACROSS A PERSON. IT NEEDN'T BE CHAIRMAN MAO, IT COULD BE SOMEBODY

ELSE, BUT HE MAKES SUCH AN IMPRESSION ON YOU THAT YOU'RE NOT THE SAME PERSON AFTER THAT.

Q: WHAT WAS IT THAT MADE SUCH AN IMPRESSION ON YOU?

A: I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN, THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS. HAVE YOU EVER MET CHAIRMAN MAO? (NO) THEN I'M VERY SORRY, DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND.

Q: THE VICE PREMIER IN HIS BANQUET SPEECH REFERRED TO THE DESIRE OF A SUPERPOWER, I'M ASSUMING THE SOVIET UNION, TO HAVE NUCLEAR BASES IN SEA. WAS THIS SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL IN YOUR TALKS?

A: NO, WE DIDN'T GO INTO THAT.

Q: YOU REFER IN YOUR FIRST SPEECH TO BENEFITS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA. WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU FORESEE NOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN SIGNED?

A: NORMAL RELATIONSHIP, THAT IS A BENEFIT. PEOPLE CAN COME AND GO TO SEE EACH OTHER. I HAVEN'T SEEN THE WHOLE OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE TODAY, I MIGHT COME AGAIN.

Q: WAS ANY VISIT BY CHINESE LEADERS PLANNED TO THAILAND?

A: WE HAVE INVITED THE VICE PREMIER. I INVITED HIM BEFORE THE END OF OUR CONFERENCE YESTERDAY. HE ACCEPTED IT ON PRINCIPLE.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US SOME MORE DETAIL IN YOUR SUBJECTS COVERED WITH CHAIRMAN MAO, JUST A ROUGH OUTLINE OF WHAT YOU TALKED ABOUT? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A: WE DISCUSSED THE SINO-THAI RELATIONSHIP. I THINK WE ARE BOTH RATHER

ELDERLY MEN TO DISCUSS IT FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME TO THE PRESENT DAY. THAT TOOK SOME TIME AND WE DISCUSSED MANY OTHER THINGS. WE DISCUSSED CHAIRMAN MAO. HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIMSELF WHICH WAS VERY INTERESTING AND VERY KIND. WE DISCUSSED ME. HE SEEMED TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME, INCLUDING MY PARTY BACK HOME. HE PUT FORWARD A KIND OF APPROACH I SHOULD TAKE TOWARDS THE THAI COMMUNIST PARTY. IT WAS VERY USEFUL. I DO NOT WISH TO REVEAL ANY DETAILS. THAT IS BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN AND ME.

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT YOUR VISIT IS SOMEHOW IN THE FRAME OF ADJUSTMENT OF YOUR POLICY TO THE NEW SITUATION IN SEA AFTER CAMBODIA AND SVN HAVE BEEN LIBERATED. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONTACTS WITH THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT AFTER THE LIBERATION OF CANBODIA.?

A: NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT AT ALL. I TOOK OFFICE LAST MARCH AND

WHEN I DECLARED THE GOVERNMENT POLICY, I HAD ALREADY MADE A DEFINITE STATEMENT THAT I WOULD OPEN A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. IT WASN'T IN THE FRAME OF READJUSTMENT OF THE FALL OF SAIGON OR PHNOM PENH AT ALL. IF IT HAS ANY CONNECTION, WITH THE FALL OF THOSE TWO CITIES, IT IS TO PUT IN THE FRAME OF MY POLICY. THAT'S ABOUT IT. WE HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE SIHANOUK AND WE HAVE ASKED PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI TO CONVEY OUR MESSAGE TO PRINCE SIHANOUK WHEN HE RETURNS FROM KOREA. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE IS AT PRESENT NO PROBLEM AT ALL BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND MY COUNTRY. IF THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW SHOTS ON THE FRONTIER, IT WASN'T A MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT WAS MERELY A CLASH OF PERSONALITIES OF THE BORDER GUARDS. IT IS NOT SERIOUS.

Q: WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE DID YOU ASK THE PREMIER TO PASS TO PRINCE SIHANOUK?

A: WE TOLD HIM WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE FRIENDS IN EVERY WAY AND WE HOPED THAT HE WOULD SOON RETURN TO CAMBODIA, SO THAT WE COULD CONTACT HIM AND BEGIN OUR FORMAL RECOGNITION, OPEN OUR EMBASSIES, AND SO ON

Q: HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY MESSAGE FOR MR. KHIERS SAMPHAN.

A: I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS. PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI DIDN'T MENTION HIM. ISN'T HE PART OF PRINCE SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT? THAT IS WHAT I WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND.
END OF TEXT

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